

John V 16



You made it! You're in a car show, which is a big accomplishment for you and an even bigger accomplishment for your car; car folks of all stripes sometimes avoid bringing their cars out to shows, meet-ups, and even casual cruises because they think the car isn't ready. They don't join car forums because the car is still a work in progress. They don't talk to other owners because until their car is done, it's not worth talking about (does anyone really believe that the car is to blame here?) or worth the hassle. Fear of embarrassment, rejection, or ridicule drive most of this reluctance. As humans, there's something completely terrifying about interacting with other humans, which leaves us being pretty shy when it comes to talking about things we should love talking about.

But your car is here, and you're here. You did it.

A church parking lot car show is a great picture of what life is like. You're having fun, but you wonder what's going to happen next (or where the bathroom is). It's crowded, but you don't know everybody. Some cars are like yours, but you still feel different sometimes.

Consider the American Bugatti Club. Members of this elite group frequently organize car shows and road rallies on various routes across the country. Before setting out, members break out their tool rolls and make sure each seven-figure vintage French racecar is road-ready. It seems bizarre, but these people are the only hope for keeping everyone rolling if something goes wrong on the road.

This is actually a great example of what God wants life to look like for us. You, as someone created and deeply loved by God, are more valuable than a seven-figure Bugatti. God chose to place you in the care of people who look after each other and help out with tune-ups and repairs so you don't end up on the side of the road. Yet even if you do, there's a long history of God sending people after ones who end up left behind. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, God himself is portrayed as the loving father who runs out to meet the knuckle-headed son who messed up and lost everything.

So, don't be a stranger. Talk to the other car folks here. Pop the hood – your engine is imperfect, but so is everyone else's. Come by here for church sometime. And when you come across someone broken down on the side of the road, consider how you could be the person God has sent to help them on their way.